REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-15 and 17-22 are pending. In the Final Office Action, all pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 4-9 and 18-21 were objected to as being dependent upon rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

By this amendment, claims 1, 5, 7-10, and 19-21 have been amended, and claims 4 and 18 have been canceled. Specifically, independent claims 1 and 10 have been amended to include features from allowable claims 4 and 18, respectively. Applicants submit that all pending claims are now in allowable form.

Allowable Subject matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating in the Final Office Action that claims 4-9 and 18-21 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 1 and 10-13 were rejected as being unpatentable over Aharoni et al. (US Patent 6,014,694, hereinafter "Aharoni") in view of Kukic (US Published Application 2003/0169780, hereinafter "Kukic").

Claims 3 and 17 were rejected as being unpatentable over Aharoni in view of Kukic and in further view of Zhang et al. (US Published Application 2002/0010938).

Claims 14-15 were rejected as being unpatentable over Aharoni in view of Kukic and in further view of Krishnamurthy et al. (US Patent 6.665.872).

Claim 22 was rejected as being unpatentable over Aharoni in view of Kukic and in further view of Laksono et al. (US Published Application 2003/0046704).

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include all features from the allowable claim 4, and independent claim 10 has been amended to include all features from the allowable claim 18. Therefore, the amended claims 1 and 10 are in allowable form. Claims 4 and 18 have been canceled.

Claims 5, 9 and 19 have been amended to provide for proper claim dependency.

Serial No.: 10/527,125 Docket PU020419
Response to Advisory Action of March 9, 2010 Customer No. 24498

Claims 7-8 and 20-21 have been amended to delete language now included in the respective base claims 1 and 10.

Since claims 3, 5-9, 11-15, 17 and 19-22 depend, either directly or indirectly, from respective claim 1 or claim 10, these dependent claims are also in allowable form.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully solicit entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims. If the Examiner believes that there are remaining issues, please contact Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6834 to arrange a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview.

Respectfully submitted, Jill M. Boyce et al.

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